

Serial No. 10/536,761
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P19437WOUS

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the subject application and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-17. By this amendment, changes have been made in the certain claims to overcome the Examiner's rejections and more concisely claim and describe the present invention. Claims 10-18 remain in the application for reconsideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Applicants acknowledge the drawing objection set forth in the Office Action. Applicants have overcome the objection by the amendments to claim 10 set forth above.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Watanabe (6,428,206). Claim 18 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Sakaniwa (5,155,757).

To further define the invention over the prior art, Applicants have revised claim 10 as set forth above. In particular, the final paragraph of the claim now claims, "a drive device for displacing the support along the outer C arm and for displacing the inner C arm along the support, wherein the drive device consists of a motor displaceably coupled to the inner C arm and the support for simultaneously displacing the inner C arm and the support such that the inner C arm and the support move in the same direction." Support for this amendment can be found in Figures 1 and 2 and the supporting text in paragraphs [0019] – [0023].

Watanabe does not disclose or suggest the use of a motor that simultaneously displaces the inner C arm and the support.

Instead, Watanabe in Figure 7 discloses two linear motors for displacing the arms of the diagnostic imaging apparatus. The linear motor 14 drives the arm 4 relative to the arm 5 as described in the paragraph beginning at line 38 of column 9. Watanabe further notes in this paragraph that the linear motor 14 does not require a reduction gear or a power transmission system. As Watanabe explains beginning in line 1 of column 10, the x-ray generator 1 is displaced relative to the arm 4 by operation of the linear motor 19.

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Watanabe's second embodiment of Figures 9A-11 discloses an arm 20 and the arm 3 described in the first embodiment. The arm 3, holding the x-ray generator 1 and the detector 2, is moved relative to the arm 20 by a linear motor 19 as illustrated in Figure 10.

Neither of these Watanabe embodiments, nor any other embodiments described in the Watanabe patent, disclose the outer C arm, the inner C arm, the support and the drive device for displacing the support along the outer C arm and for displacing the inner C arm along the support as claimed by Applicants in amended claim 10

Applicants respectfully submit that rejected claims 11 and 18 depending from claim 10, are allowable along with and for the same reasons as amended independent claim 10, and further that these claims reference other patentably distinguishable features of the present invention

Claims 12-17 (dependent directly or indirectly from claim 10) have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in these claims. However at this stage of prosecution Applicants respectfully suggest that these claims are currently in condition for allowance based on the amendments to claim 10 and the remarks and discussion above in which Applicants' invention as set forth in claim 10 is distinguished from the cited references. Reconsideration of the request to rewrite claims 12-17 in independent form is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants have responded to all rejections and objections in the Office Action and it is believed that the claims 10-18 remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's claim rejections have been overcome. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider these rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all the pending claims

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The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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